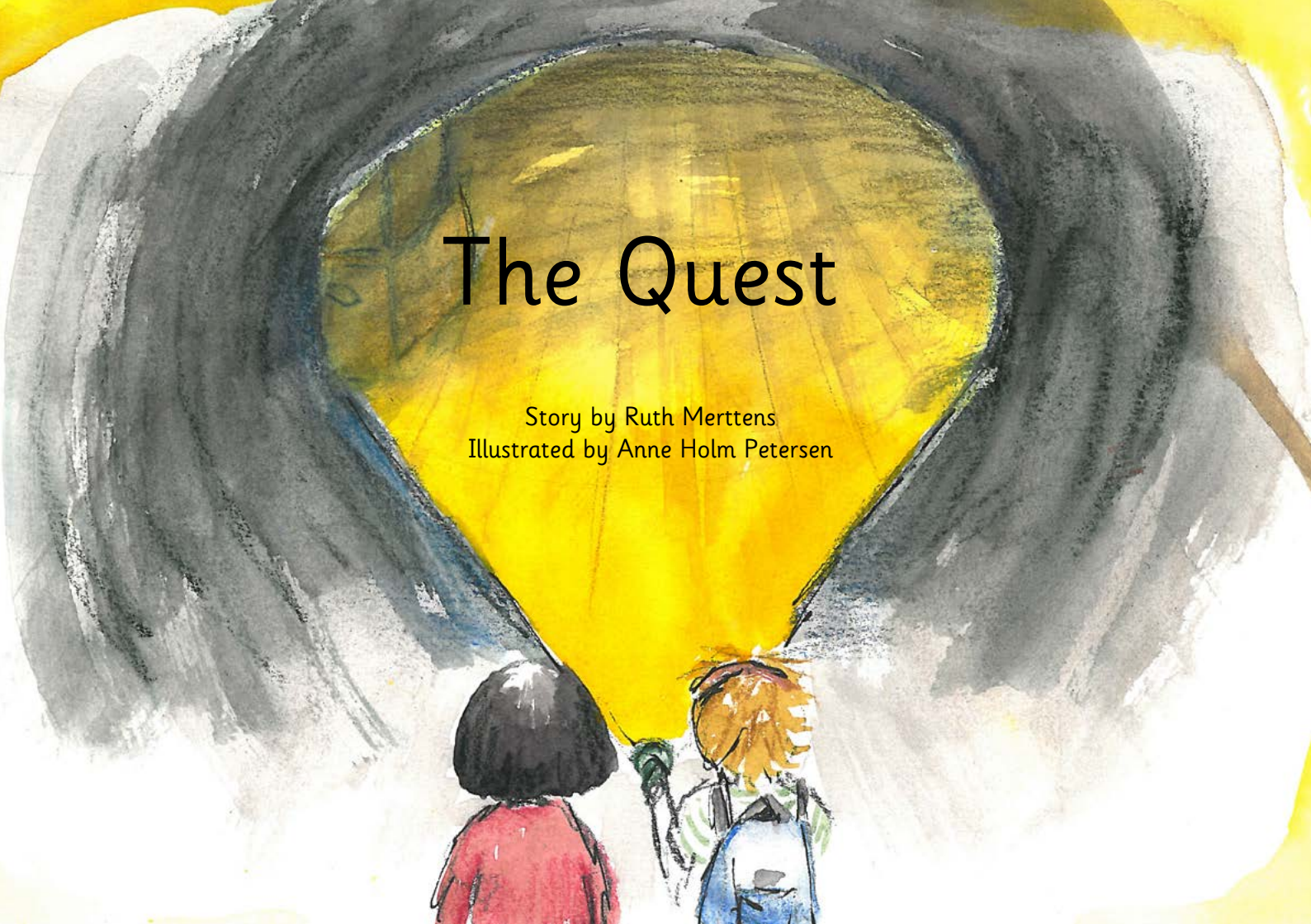
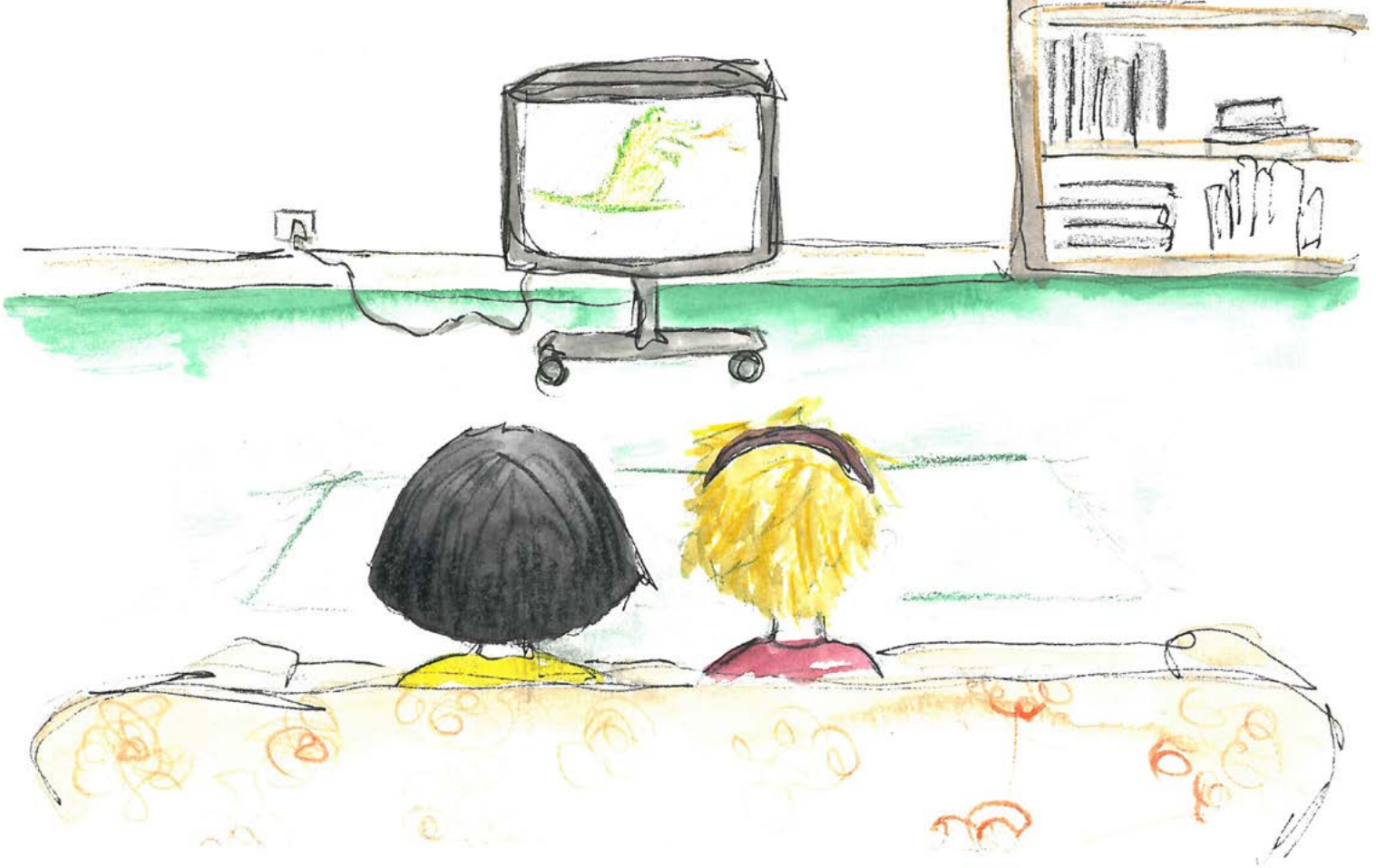
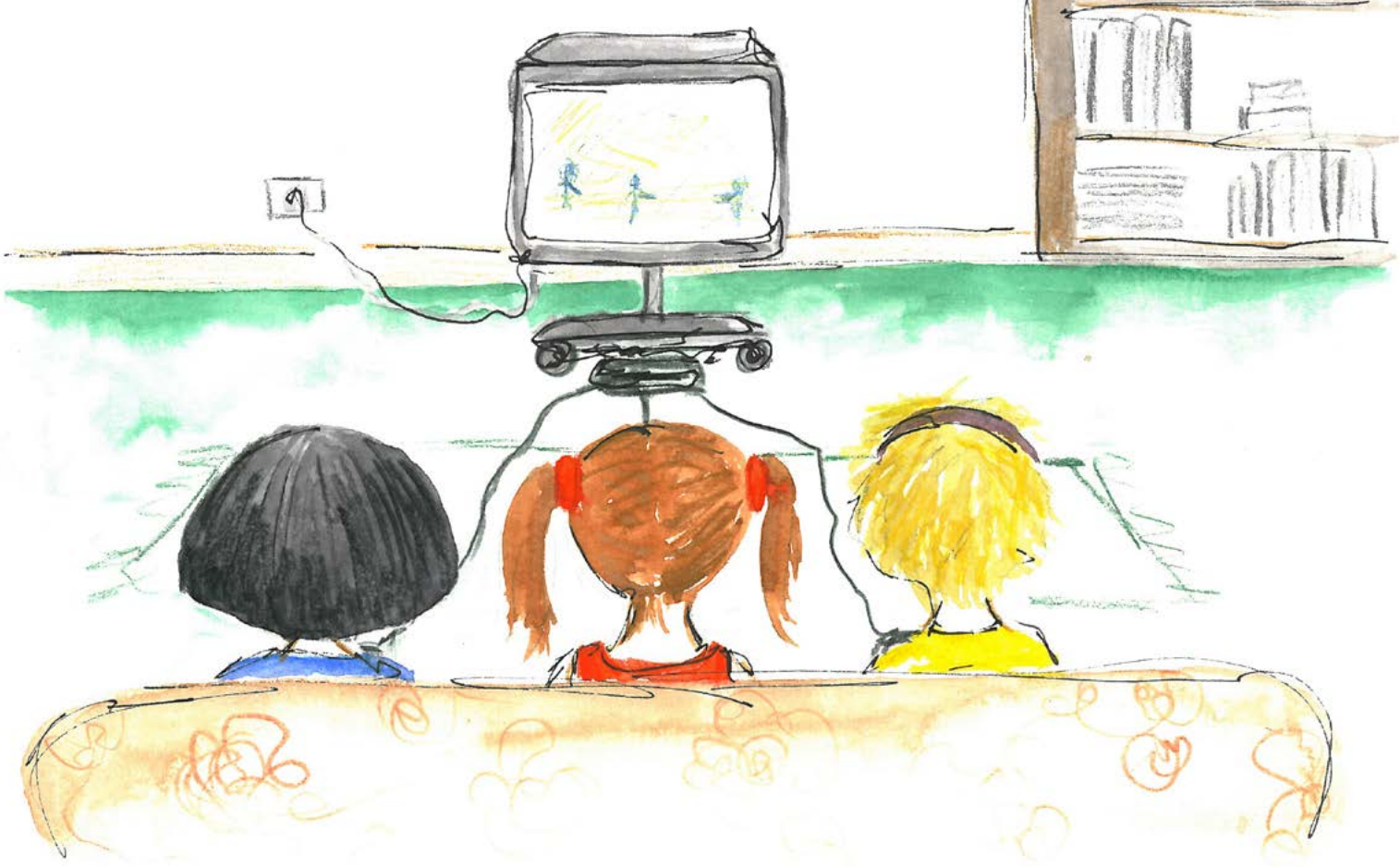
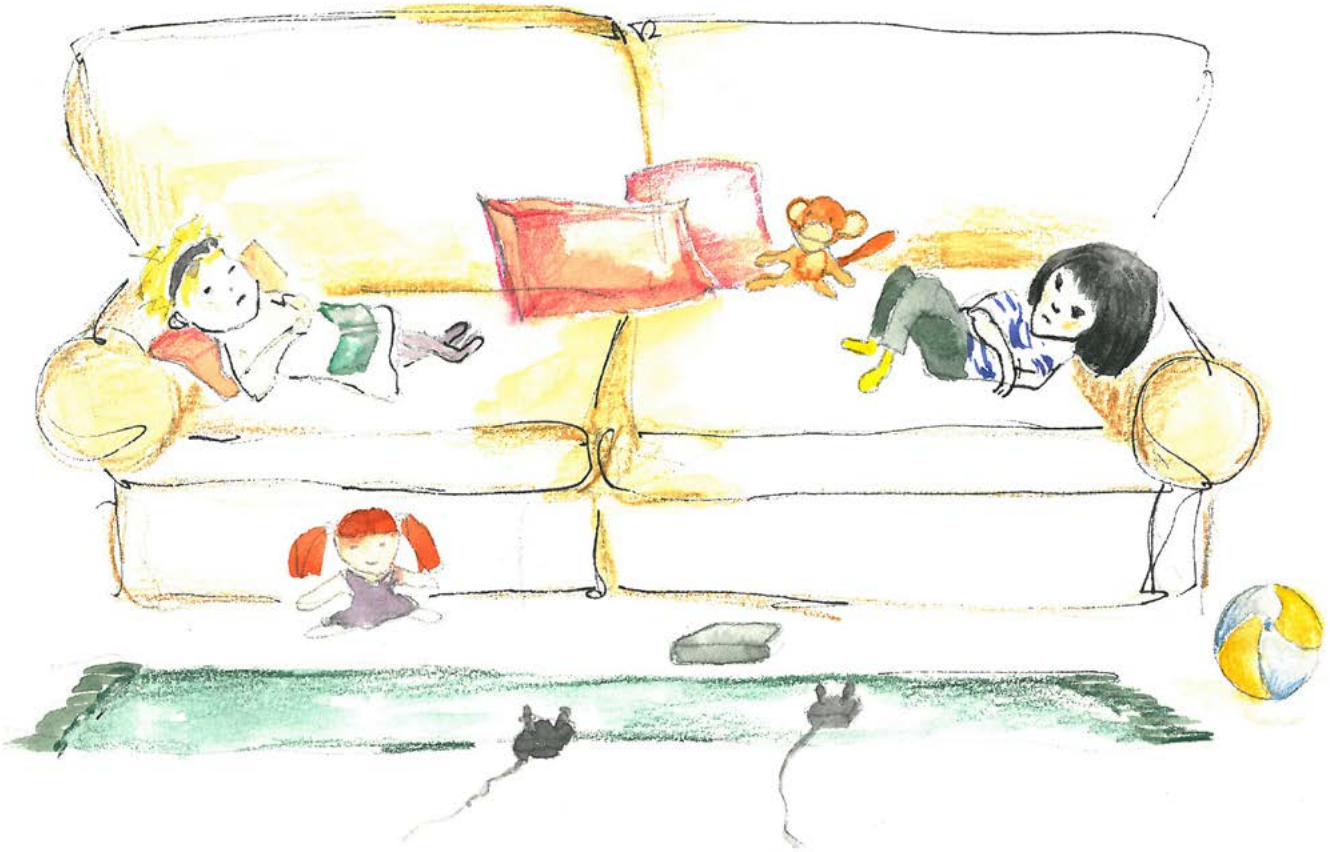

The Quest
Story by Ruth Merttens
Illustrated by Anne Holm Petersen



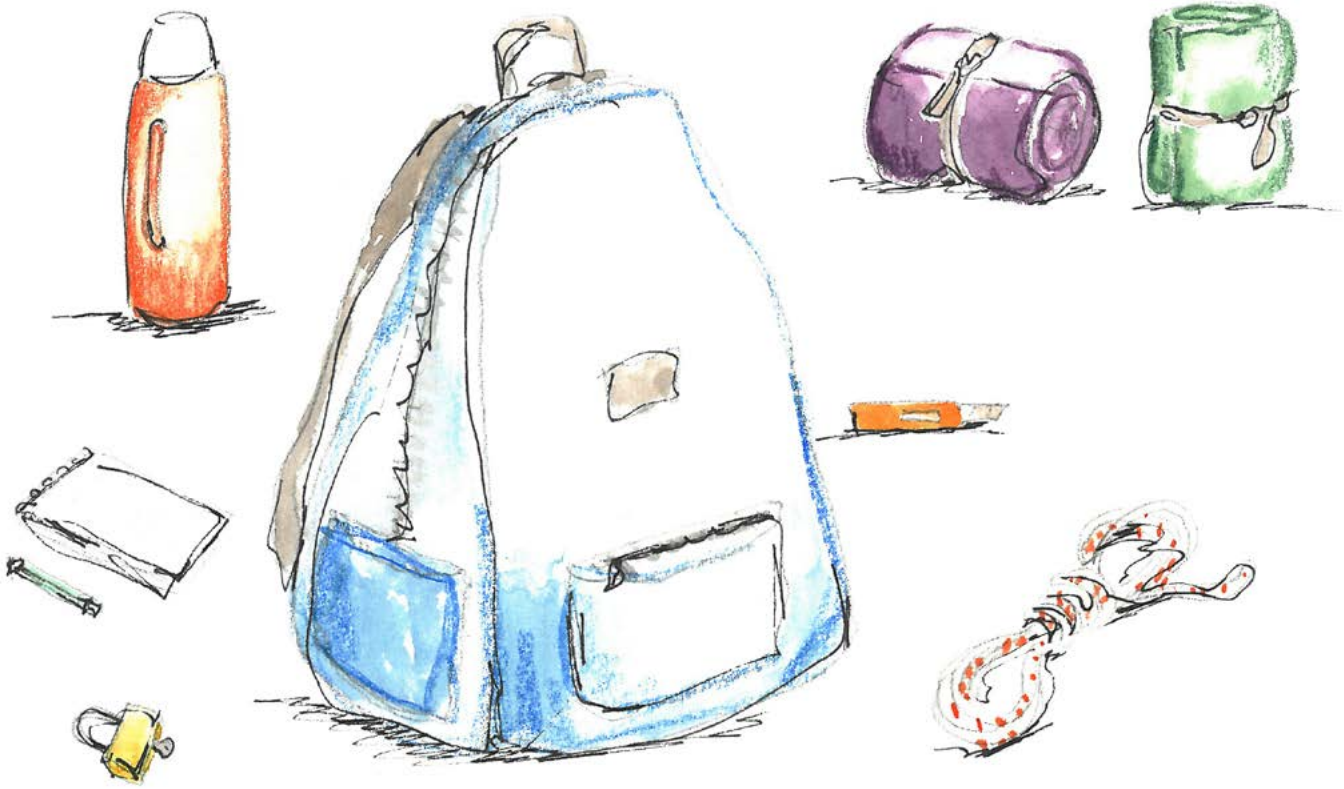
Mali and Sarah loved watching films and DVDs about exciting and magical quests.



They also liked playing video console games with their friends.
These were sometimes about quests as well.



But on this particular day, Mali and Sarah were a bit bored.



"I know," suggested Mali, "let's go on a quest of our own!" So they packed a rucksack with many useful things and set off.

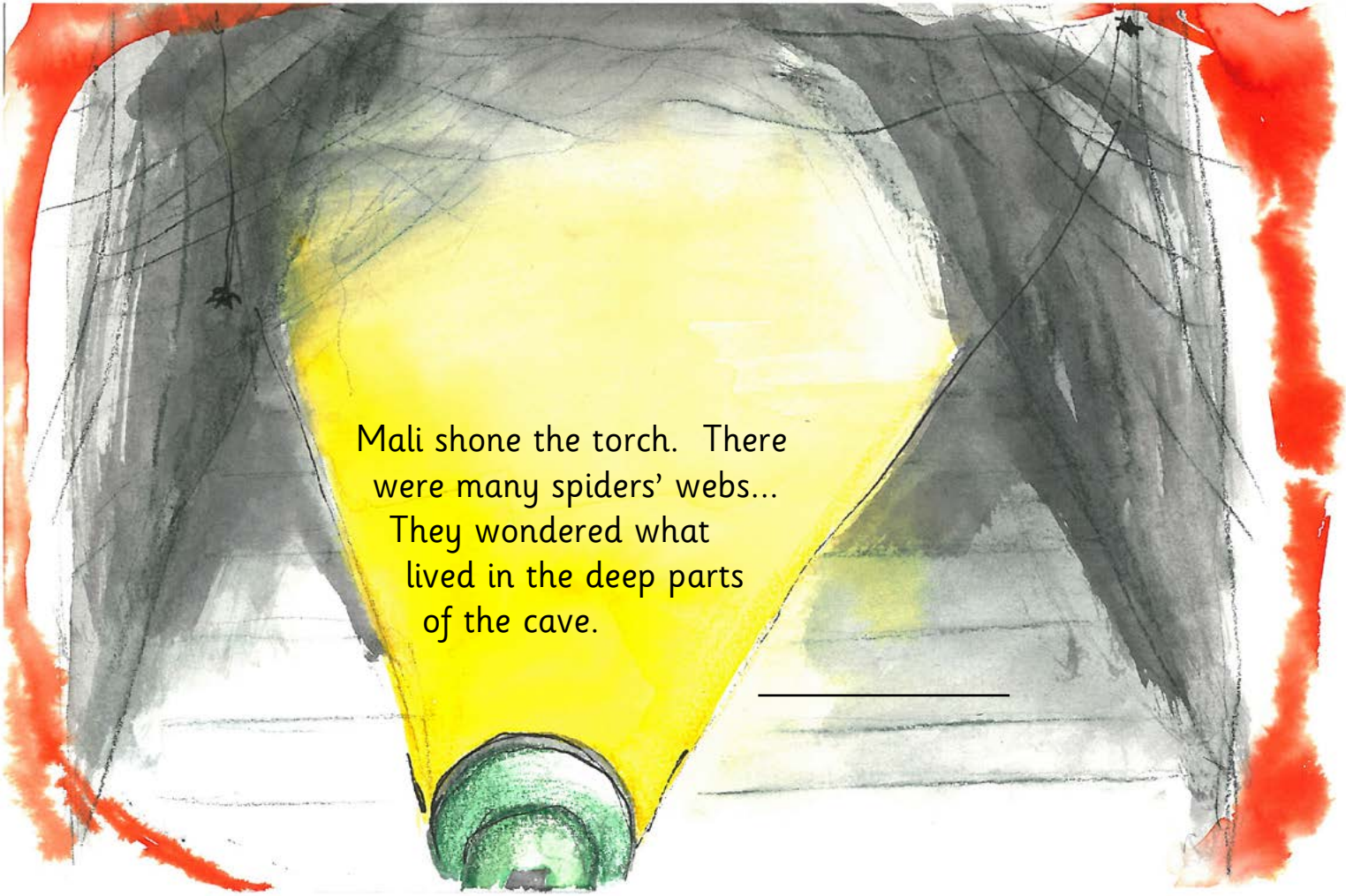
They got just as far as the garden gate! A big voice boomed down, "Where do you think you two are going?"

No, it was not a giant. It was not a troll. It was not even a monster. It was their Dad! "You are not allowed to go out of the garden," he said. "Not without a grown-up."

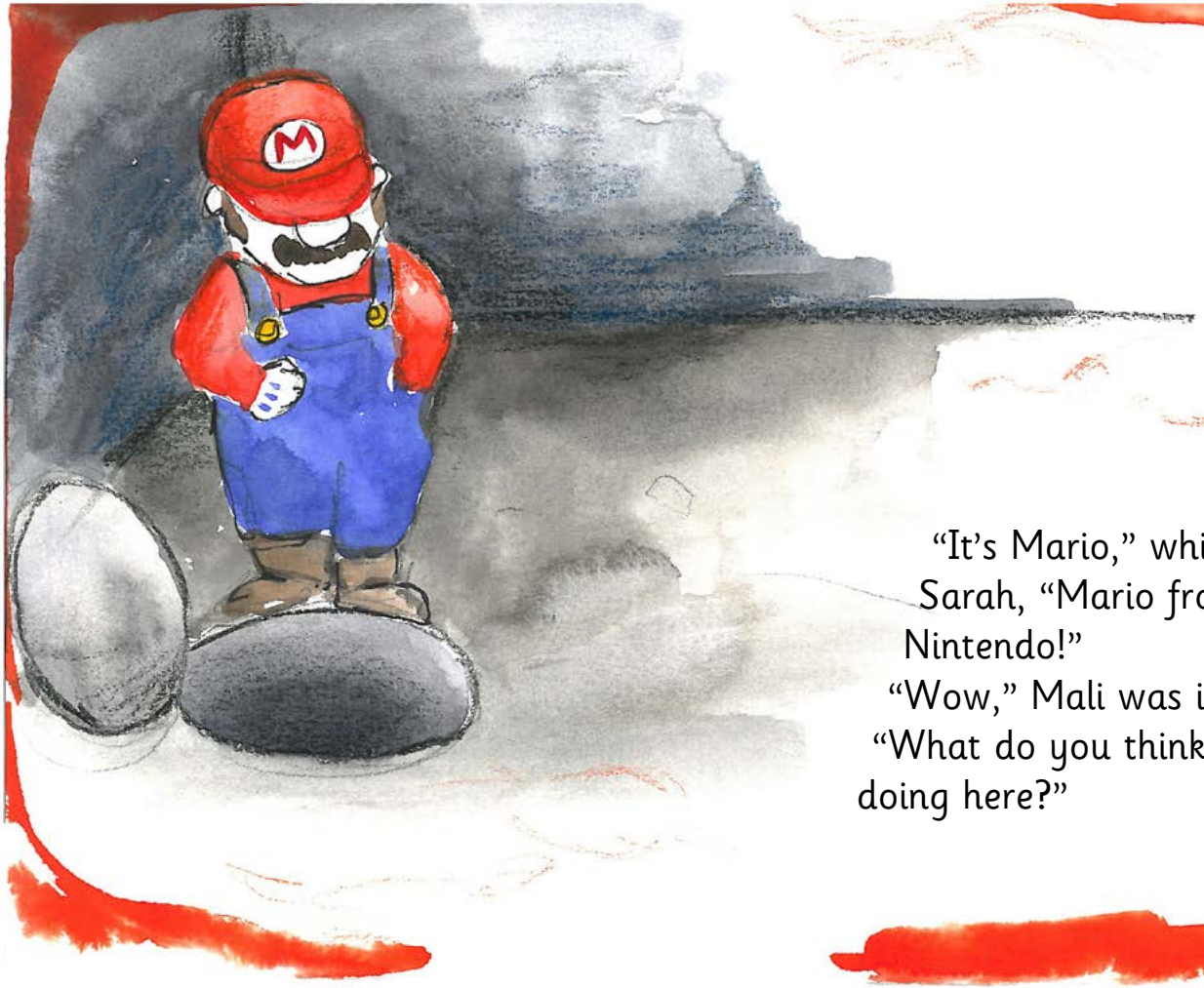
“Well that means we can’t go on a quest,” wailed Sarah. “Now we are going to be BORED all day.” but Mali had an idea.
“We can go on a quest,” she said, “but it might be very dangerous...”

They found a torch. They made some sandwiches in case they got lost and needed food. Sarah took her best water bottle for a drink.

They set out. The first thing they found was a dark cave. There was a tunnel leading deep underground. No-one had ever explored it. Where did the tunnel go?


Mali shone the torch. There were many spiders' webs... They wondered what lived in the deep parts of the cave.

Then they saw it!
Something red,
white and blue was
moving in a corner.
It was Mario!

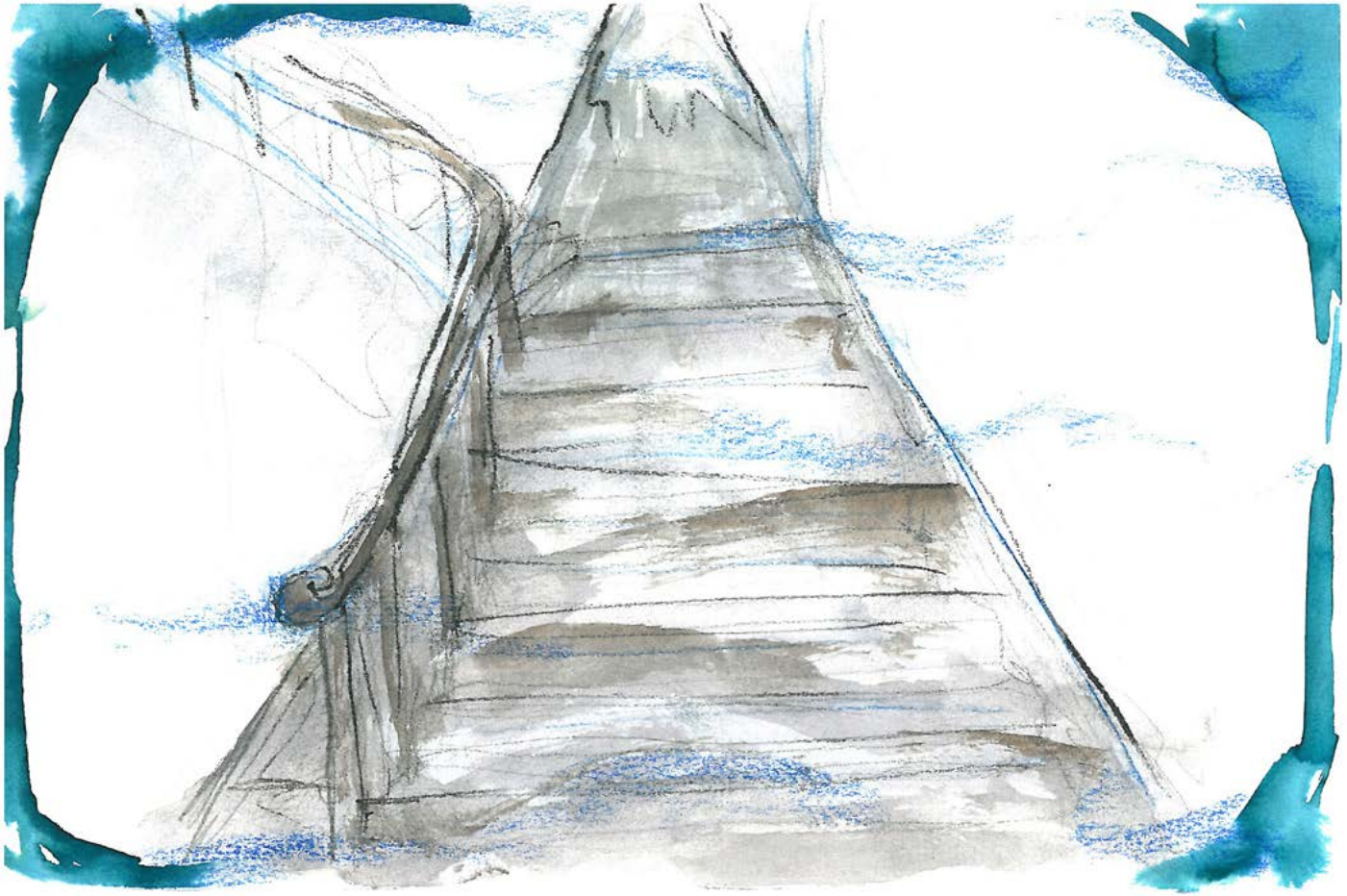


"It's Mario," whispered Sarah, "Mario from our Nintendo!"

"Wow," Mali was impressed. "What do you think he is doing here?"

"Well, he's over by that deep hole. Maybe he's come up from the sewers?" Sarah moved forwards, toward Mario. But as she got closer, they both saw him wave a cheerful hand and jump high in the air. Then he vanished down a deep dark hole!

Mali and Sarah peered down into the darkness. They heard the sound of running water. “It’s too dark to see, even with the torch,” said Sarah.
“Mario’s gone. I think we will go back to our quest,” replied Mali. So they scrambled back up along the dark, damp tunnel away from the cave.

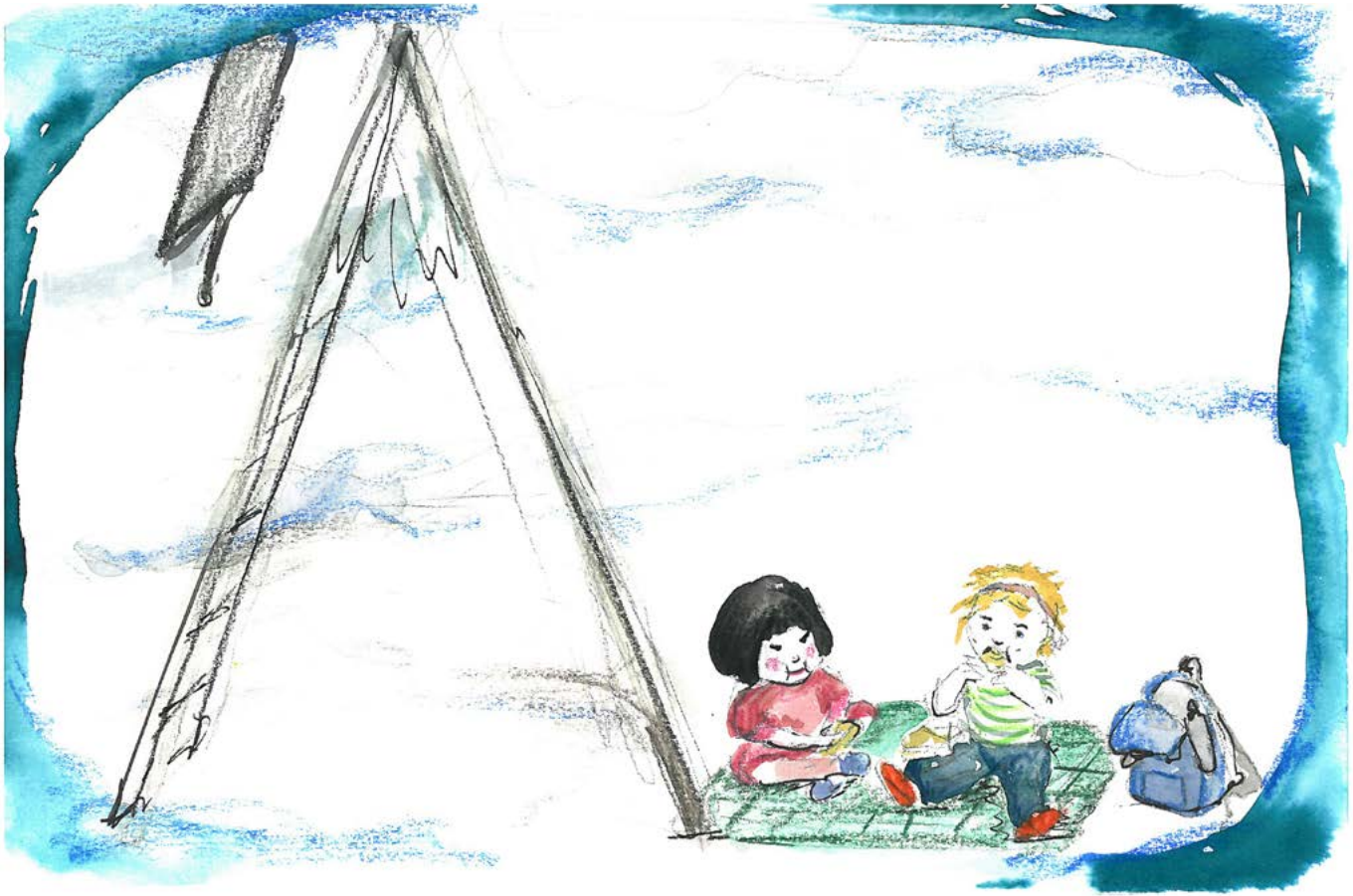


The problem facing them as they crawled out of the cave was a huge mountain! It loomed up over them. It seemed so high that its peak was hidden in mist.

“Well, we had better start climbing,” said Mali.
“This is where the rope comes in handy.” Sarah started to uncoil the rope.
She gave Mali one end. “We’ll need it.”

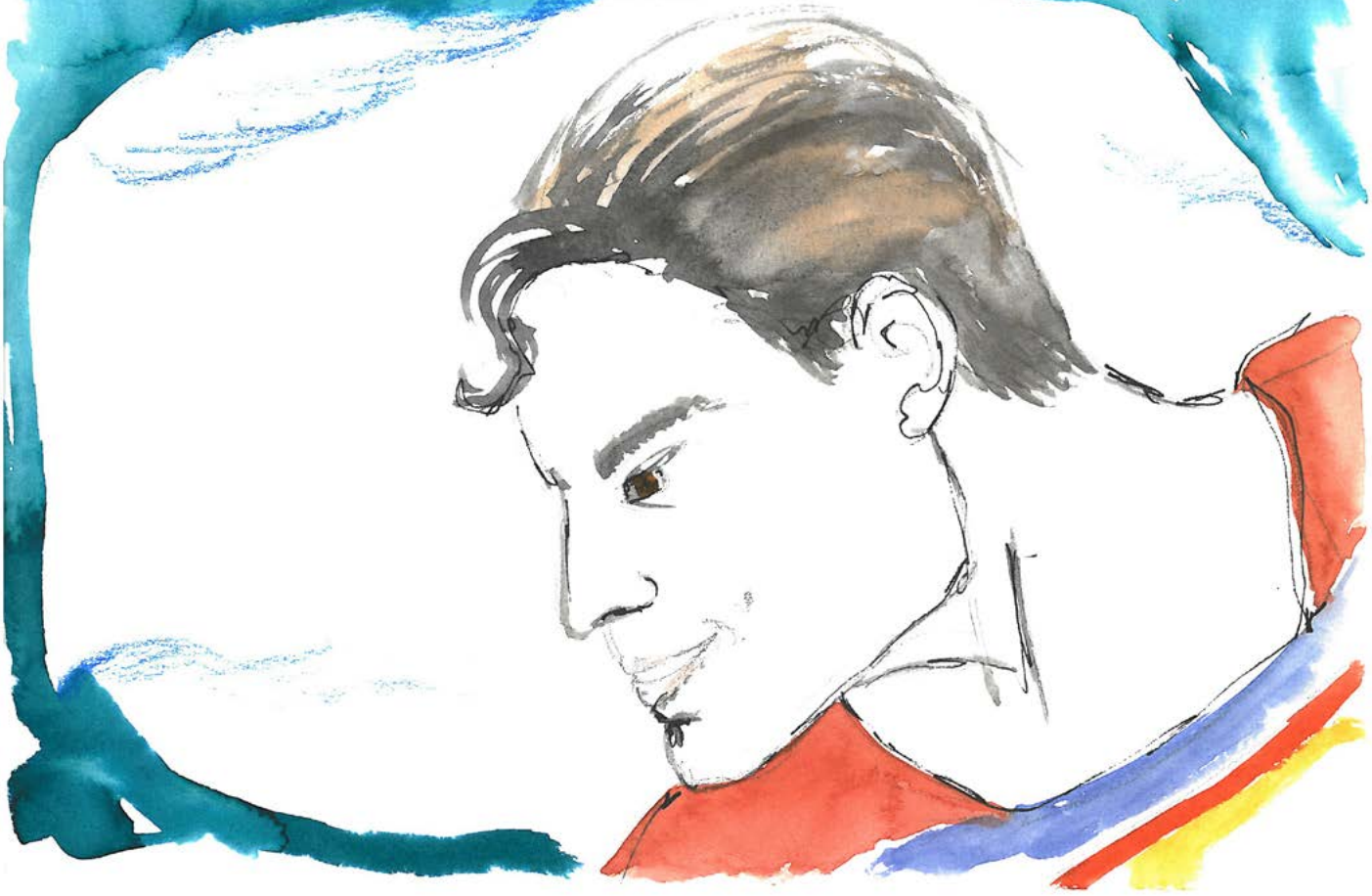
As they reached the top, they met a small green figure. “Oh my!” Mali gasped, “It’s Ben 10. He’s running along the ridge. Quick, let’s go after him!” Sarah pushed the rope back into the rucksack.

“He’s chasing Vilgax!” Sarah was ahead of Mali, “Quick!” But just then, they saw him take a flying leap. He landed on a mountain down the valley!
“We can’t get there!” Mali warned Sarah, who stopped running.
“I guess not,” she said sadly, “I really wanted to see him. I bet he still has the Omnitrix! I wanted a turn!”



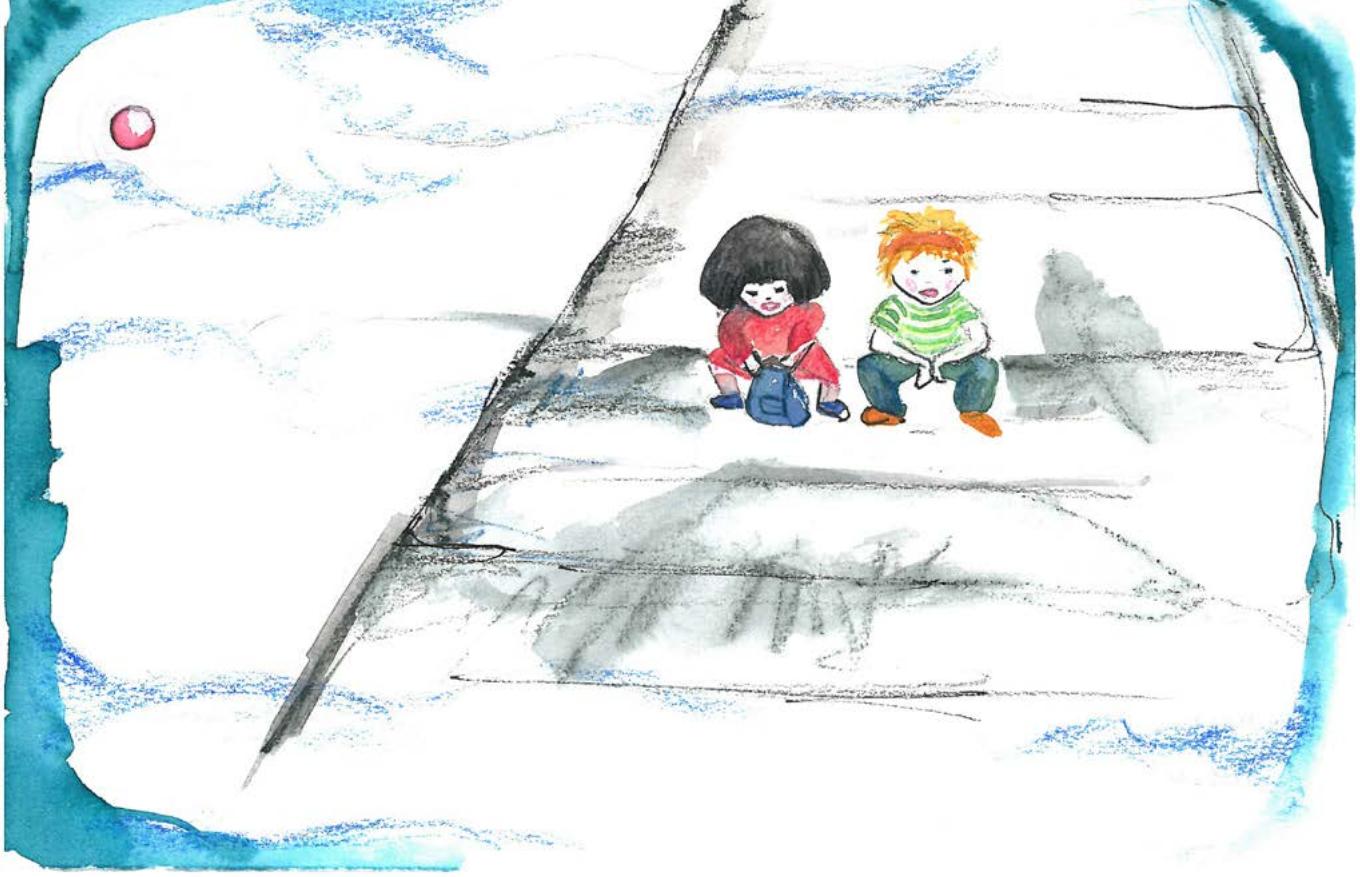
The girls ran round the corner to see yet another mountain. This one was even higher than the last! Sarah took one look and sat down, “Well, before we start climbing, we need our food.” She took out the sandwiches and gave one to Mali.

They ate their lunch looking across the mountain. Then three figures loomed out of the mist. It took Mali and Sarah a minute or two to recognise them.

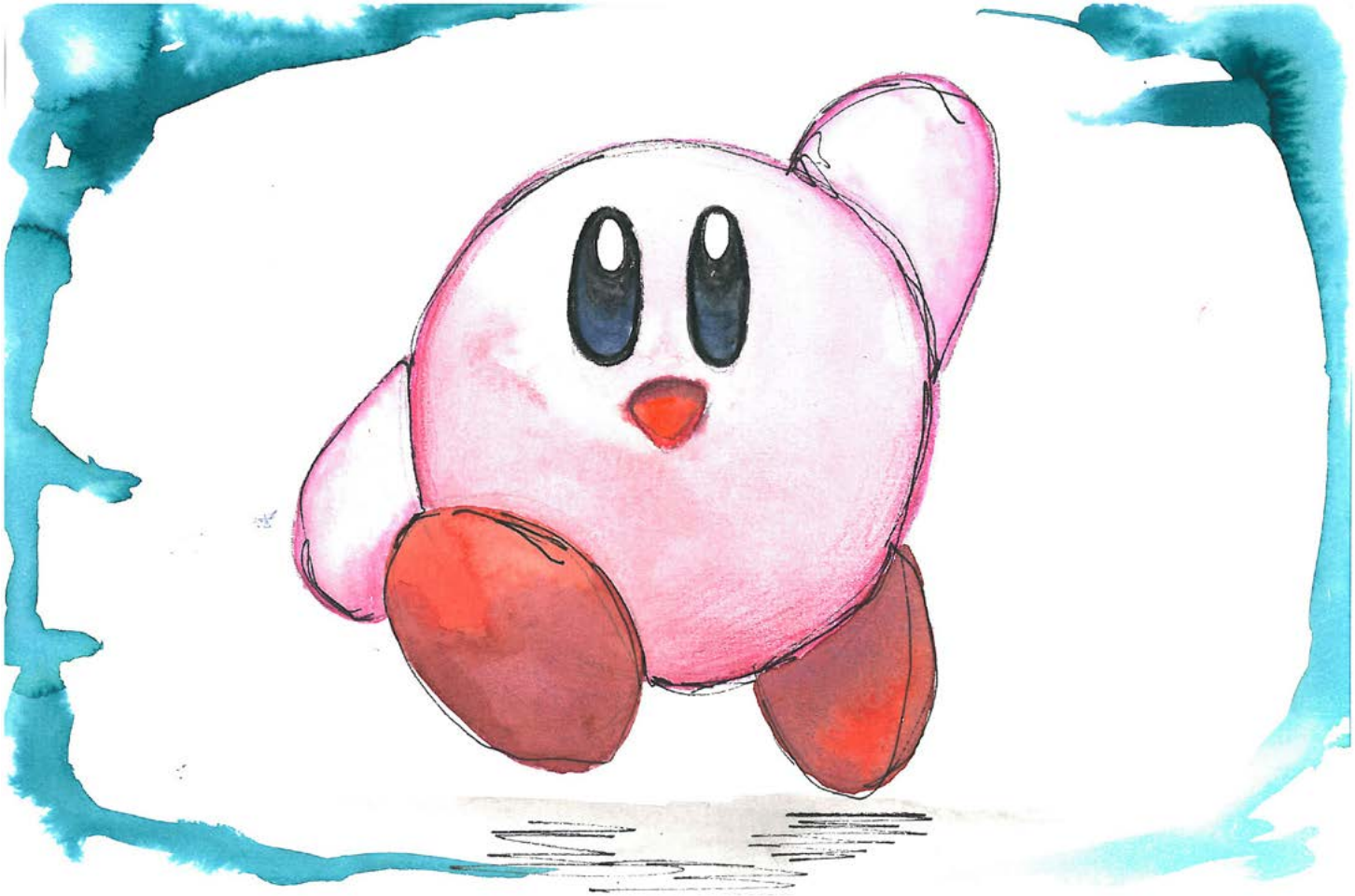


Batman put his finger on his lips to shush them. He and Spiderman slipped past. Superman was just behind. He stopped and whispered, "Sorry, we're on the trail of the Penguin. We can't stop...!"

Mali and Sarah gazed after the three figures as they vanished into the mist. Then they packed up the rucksack and took a long drink from Sarah's best water bottle.



Sarah got out the rope and the two girls started to climb the mountain. This one was much steeper than the last one. They paused, panting, for a rest halfway up. A small character bobbed into view.



“Look, Sarah!” Mali pointed. “It’s Kirby! He’s chasing someone...”

“He’s swallowing them!” squeaked Sarah. “Look, he’s caught them and he’s swallowing them!”
“Now he will spit them out,” Mail told her. Sure enough, Kirby turned and fired a black ball toward the mountain. The ball was blazing with fire.

“I wonder why Kirby was here?” said Sarah as they struggled up the last bit of the mountain.
“Perhaps he was protecting something,” said Mali. Then she stopped. “Hey Sarah! There’s a cavern here. It looks spooky!”

“Wow!” Sarah came up beside Mali and gazed in. “It looks as if it has been abandoned. Someone or something...” Sarah shivered, “...must have lived here a long time ago.”

“What’s that glittering over there?” Mali moved to look at a small, dusty pebble lying on the floor.

Just at that moment there was a flash of light in the roof of the cavern.
"It's a Skylander! I think it's Flashwing."
"What's Flashwing doing here?" asked Sarah, amazed.

“I have no idea!” Mali was gazing up.

Flashwing swooped down. He was flying so fast that all they could see was a flash of light. He zoomed past them and out of the cavern.

“Come on, let’s follow...” Sarah was already running towards the cavern mouth. “Okay, I’m coming,” shouted Mali. But she stopped. Then she bent down and scooped up the small dusty pebble. She stuffed it in her pocket. Then she ran after Sarah.

Sarah was climbing down the mountain at a scary speed. “Slow down!” Mali yelled “You’re not roped up!” But Sarah was already running along the ridge. Flashwing dived up, then down, around their heads, and out over the mountains into the setting sun.

They flopped back onto the sofa. “That was the best quest ever,” sighed Sarah. “We met so many of our favourite characters.”
“Yep,” replied Mali, “plus we found the treasure!” She pulled the small stone out of her pocket and dusted it. It glittered and sparkled in the sunlight – a beautiful ruby!

PGCs	PGCs
/c/ as c, /t/ as t, /a/ as a	/cw/ as qu/, /cs/ as x, /y/ as y
/d/ as d, /g/ as g, /o/ as o	/oa/ as ow, o, oa, oe, o-e
/m/ as m, /n/ as n	/ooh/ as oo, ew, o
/i/ as i, /s/ as s and ss	/z/ as z, zz and s, /g/ as gu and gh
/u/ as u, /r/ as r	/er/ as er, ur, ir, ear, or
/h/ as h, /l/ as l and ll	/s/ as c, se and ce
/e/ as e, /b/ as b	/j/ as g, ge and dge
/f/ as f and ff, /sh/ as sh	/l/ as le + tt, gg, bb
/p/ as p, /c/ as k and ck	/ue/ as ew, u-e and u
/ee/ as y, /p/ as pp (+ mm, dd, rr, nn)	/ch/ as tch, /oy/ as oi, oy
/ee/ as ee, ea, e	/ooh/ as ue , u-e, ui /c/ as ch, (/ooh/ as ou)
/w/ as w and wh*, /ch/ as ch	/air/ as ear, air, are, (ere, eir)
/th/ as th, /ng/ as ng	/u/ as o, ou, (o-e) /f/ as ph and gh
/tthh/ as th, /v/ as v, ve	/e/ as ea, (a), /o/ as a
/oo/ as oo, u and oul	/ay/ as a, eigh, ea, ey
/j/ as j, /ar/ as ar and a*	/ee/ as ie, ey; /or/ as ar
/ou/ as ou, ow and ough	/or/ as oor, oar and au
/or/ as or, ore, aw and a	/or/ as ough, our, augh
/ay/ as ay, a-e, ai	/or/ as al; /t/ as ed
/ie/ as y, ie, i-e, i and igh	/d/ as ed; /ng/ as n
	/sh/ as ti, si, ci, ch /zh/ as si, as and s

Code-Breakers

Extended Texts ~ Book 4

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